

**A collection of stories and memories from 200 years of local healthcare**

**'In Sickness and in Health' tells the story of the Charles Hicks Practice in Huntingdon and Godmanchester. The Patients' Forum wanted to find out more about the lives of the doctors and patients as local medical and health provision has developed over the years. This book is the outcome.**

**Published by the Patients' Forum of the Hicks Group Practice.**

**Price £10 per copy**

Proceeds go towards additional resources and new equipment for patients at the Hicks Group surgeries in Godmanchester and Huntingdon.

To reserve your copy or for more information email [patientsforum.CHS@gmail.com](mailto:patientsforum.CHS@gmail.com)



# **Early Summer newsletter 2024 from the Patients' Forum**

## ***News from the Hicks Group Practice***

Our list size as of today is 16,953 an increase of 134 patients since the March Patient Forum meeting.

**Staff changes** Sadly two long standing members of staff have now retired. Joan Tunstall was a valued and experienced member of the secretarial team and Maria Cowie, had been a member of the nursing team for many years. We have however successfully recruited the following people to join our teams. Della Dear, (secretarial) Candice Ferdinand, Helen Hinchliffe and Michelle Thompson, (reception) and Joanne Robertson, (healthcare assistant) will be starting in June.

Unfortunately the Community Matron team has taken a little longer to get restarted as we needed to recruit a new Community Matron. Maria Martin, one of our Advanced Nurse Practitioners, has been helping the team but when the new matron starts June, we will look forward to having Maria back with us. Currently there are no changes to our extended access clinics, which we are running one evening a week for face to face appointments and a Friday evening and Saturday for telephone appointments. This service and its provision is currently under review.



**If you need to come to the surgery to book an appointment  
please do so after 10am**



The latest GP workforce figures for England show the number of patients per practice is rising. GPs are now responsible for about 18% more patients than in 2015, demonstrating ever-mounting workload pressures. The latest appointment data shows that that around 29.9 million standard appointments were booked in March 2024, and over the past year, approximately 353.3 million standard (non-Covid-19 vaccination) appointments were booked. When comparing to pre-pandemic levels, this is 43.1 million more appointments than between April 2019 to March 2020.

Within this environment NHS England has imposed changes to the GMS Contract for General Practice 2024/25 which have threatened the viability of many practices and their ability to provide safe services. GP leaders are entering a dispute with them which is a warning that industrial action could possibly be on the horizon unless urgent improvements to the contract are made.

Dr Bramall-Stainer, our local GP leader at a national level, said: *“GPs and their patients want the same thing. We want patients to be able to see their family doctor, quickly and easily, in a practice that is local to them, well-staffed and resourced, and safe. This contract imposition will do untold damage to our profession, making it harder for surgeries to stay open and give the care our patients need. We don’t want to take any kind of industrial action and hope it can be avoided, but the further NHS England and the Government get from working with us on solutions, the closer GPs get to taking action.”*

In June a ballot will be taking place which has been initiated by the General Practitioners Committee where members will be asked to vote to send a message to the Government that they are ready to stand up for a better service for our patients, and to protect our practices. Hopefully we will soon have support material available to us to raise awareness of the issues to our patients and local population and we will also be looking to the Patient Forum to help us with this campaign.



## News from the Patients' Forum



### PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR TYPE 2 DIABETES

We are continuing to promote our partnership with Diabetes UK to provide support for patients of the Hicks Practice with Type 2 diabetes. T2TEAM is an online peer support group for patients with Type 2 diabetes which meets via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 7.00pm—8.30pm. The group provides support for people living with Type 2 diabetes, their family and friends. T2TEAM is an opportunity to share ideas and information to support and motivate diabetes self-management.

Contact the group via [t2team.peergroup@gmail.com](mailto:t2team.peergroup@gmail.com)

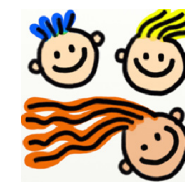
or by text to 07732108786



### GALA DAY – Saturday 6th July

We will be running a stall at this years Gala Day please visit us and if you would like to help, contact patientsforum.

[CHS@gmail.com](mailto:CHS@gmail.com) for more information.



### LISTENING TABLES

**We want to hear what you think of the Practice? How can it be improved, would you like more information about health matters that concern you and would you like to join the Patients' Forum?**

**We will be in Roman Gate Surgery on Thursday 4 July, 5 Sept, 7 Nov and at Charles Hicks Surgery on Wednesday 7 Aug, 2 Oct and 4 Dec. See our notice board for details.**

**Please join us.**